

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-13 and 15-18 are now pending.

Claim 13 was objected to because of noted informalities. Claim 13 has been reviewed and revised above to correct the matters noted by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 8 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended above to incorporate the allowable limitations of claim 3. Claim 2 has been amended above to incorporate the allowable limitations of claim 8, and claim 13 has been amended above to incorporate the allowable limitations of claim 14. Claims 3, 8 and 14 have been canceled accordingly. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-13 and 15-18 should all now be allowed.

The Examiner's prior art rejections have been mooted by the above amendments.

Attached is a Form PTO/SB/08a listing the enclosed document for consideration by the Examiner. Also attached is an English Abstract of the listed document.

Although the listed Japanese document has the same assignee as the present application, it is hereby certified that, on information and belief after making reasonable inquiry, the listed document was not known to any inventor named, the attorney(s) or agent(s) who prepared or prosecuted this application, or any other person who is substantially involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application more than three (3) months ago. In this regard, the listed document was first found by an inventor of this application while preparing to respond to the Examiner's Office Action of

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February 27, 2006 and, on information and belief, was not known to the inventors, or the Japanese Agent, or the undersigned more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Furthermore, on information and belief, the listed document has not been cited in a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.

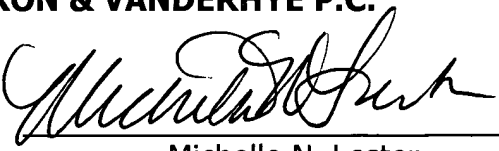
This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the herewith Form PTO/SB/08a with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 are earnestly solicited.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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